

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 02063 121205Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----019032 121206Z /53

O R 121144Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6376
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 2063

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SO, US, ET, MASS, PDEV, MOPS
SUBJ: SOMALIA'S REQUEST FOR ARMS

REF: STATE 161221

1. UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID'S RESENT COMMITMENT TO FINANCE
SOMALI SUGAR SCHEME (ABU DHABI 1882) IS REFLECTION OF
UAE HOPE THAT SOMALIA CAN REDUCE ITS OVERALL DEPENDENCE
ON SOVIETS. UAE WOULD WELCOME SEEING SOMALI REDUCE
ITS DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET UNION AS SOURCE OF MILITARY
HARDWARE, BUT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE WILLING TO FINANCE
SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF WESTERN ARMS PURCHASES. WERE
US TO RESPOND TO SAID BARRE LENTHY SHOPPING LIST WITH
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OFFER TO SELL ALL OR LARGE PART OF ITEMS ON IT, NEXT THING
THAT WOULD HAPPEN WOULD BE SERIES OF VISITS BY SOMALI
DELEGATIONS TO ABU DHABI TO PUT ARM ON ZAYID TO PAY PART
OF COSTS. UAEG WOULD FIND THIS DISTASTEFUL EVEN IF ZAYID
PERSONALLY WERE PERSUADED TO DO SO. UAE WOULD THEREFORE
PROBABLY WELCOME US FENDING OFF SOMALI REQUEST FOR SIZEABLE
SALES PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY IF WE WOULD EXPLAIN TO UAE

LEADERSHIP HERE HOW REQUEST WAS MADE AND ITS MAGNITUDE.

2. UAEG WOULD LIKELY WELCOME OTHER MOVES IN NORMALIZE US-SOMALI RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY IMPLEMENTATION OF US ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM. LATTER WOULD BE SEEN HERE AS EVIDENCE OF UAE WILLINGNESS SHARE WITH ARAB DONORS SOME OF BURDEN OF SOMALIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SUCH EVIDENCE OF USG ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA COULD POSSIBLY BE HELPFUL TO US IF LATER ON DECISION WERE TAKEN TO SUPPORT PITCH BY SIAD BARRE TO ZAYID FOR FUNDS TO BUY MODEST QUANTITY OF US ARMS.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT UAE LEADERSHIP NOW FEELS THAT SOMALIS AT THIS POINT HAVE FEW CHOICES FOR THEIR SECURITY AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING. IF THEY CONTINUE TO BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH SOVIETS, THEY CANNOT EXPECT TO ATTRACT FURTHER CAPITAL FROM MODERATE AND RICH ARAB STATES. BUT CONTINUED CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH SOVIETS DOES NOT ASSURE SOMALIA OF CONTINUED SECURITY EITHER, NOW THAT SOVIETS ARE ARMING ETHIOPIA. UAE IS BETTING THAT SOMALIA'S ISLAMIC HERITAGE AND ENORMOUS CAPITAL NEEDS FOR BASIC DEVELOPMENT WILL INELUCTABLY BRING IT TO MODERATE ARAB CAMP.

DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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